II. Cheque Passes:

Complimentary single journey (to and fro) passes known as Cheque Passes are issued to:

(1) Licensed Porters.

(2) Individuals and organisations engaged in social, cultural, educational, sports and welfare activities under the discretionary powers of Minister for Railways, Minister of State for Railways & Railway Board, as per guidelines evolved by the Ministry of Railways.

Under their discretionary powers, 414 Complimentary card passes & 50 Cheque passes were issued by the then Minister for Railways & 5 Complimentary card passes & 405 Complimentary Cheque passes were issued by the then Minister of State for Railways (independent charge) in the previous Government.

The issue of Complimentary card passes under the discretionary powers has now been completely stopped. No new Complimentary Card Pass has been issued under the discretionary powers of the Minister of Railways. However, a few Complimentary Cheque Passes for single to and fro journey have been issued by the Railway Board mostly for the volunteers proceeding to Orissa for relief work in the context of devastation caused by the super cyclone.

Jalianwalan Bagh Trust

*90. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been planned to make the Jalianwalan Bagh Trust more representative;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is proposed to restore Presidentship of the Trust to the Prime Minister, as was the position heretobefore?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The question of updating the Jalianwala Bagh Memorial Act, 1951 is under consideration of the Government.

Supply of Defective Sleepers to Railways

*91. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a case of supply of defective wooden sleeprs to the Indian Railways has come to light;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the officials involved?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s Gujarat State Forest Development Corporation, Vadodara supplied 15,000 cum of wooden sleepers vide contract dated 02.03.93. Sleepers supplied against this contract to the Northern Railway were found defective.

Out of the total quantity of 15,000 cum, 2200 cum (15,890 sleepers), were supplied to Northern Railway Construction Organisation. From this lot, 8162 Nos. of sleepers were received by Northern Railway in August, 95. At that time, on receipt of a complaint, all the available 6561 Nos. of sleepers were checked and out of these, 6016 sleepers were found defective.

(c) In this matter, three Railway Officials were considered responsible and disciplinary action under Discipline & Appeal Rules has been taken in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission.

Besides the Railway officials, some other non-railway agencies are also involved. However, in order to determine their criminal involvement, the case has been referred to CBI for detailed investigation. CBI has since registered the case.

Distortions in History and Civics Book

*92. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a book entitled a Comprehensive study of History and Civics prascribed for Class VI students in U.P. by NCERT, has upset Islamic schools because there is an allegation that it distorts facts;

(b) if so, who is responsible for this state of affairs; and

(c) what steps Government are taking so that this situation is rectified and future such a situation does not recur?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT , MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has neither published the book entitled, "A Comprehensive study of History and Civics" for class VI students in Uttar Pradesh nor has it prescribed it for study. As per the report received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh,